



**ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT
ALLIANCE FOR
BUSINESS**

Building Resources, Businesses & Quality Jobs

October 9, 2002

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 02-306

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The Economic Development Alliance for Business (EDAB) is filing these comments in the aforementioned proceeding.

Sincerely,

Bruce Kern
Executive Director

COMMENTS:

EDAB supports SBC Pacific Bell's entry into the long distance market. We believe the market will be truly open and fully competitive, and will benefit California consumers by offering savings, convenience, easily understood calling plans, quality customer service and the consumer luxury of one-stop shopping for all telecommunication services. SBC Pacific Bell's ability to offer long distance service will give the over 500 business leaders of EDAB more choices, better service, savings and convenience.

As you know, SBC Pacific Bell filed its long distance application over four years ago. The CPUC has overseen an unprecedented series of filings, workshops, audits, re-filings, tests and hearings – all designed to ensure that SBC Pacific Bell has complied with the 1996 Telecommunication Act's requirement to open the local market to competitors. The marketplace is clearly open as companies across the state are offering consumers a wide variety of services and options – including local telephone service.

We are troubled that the long distance entry process for SBC Pacific Bell has taken such a long period of time, when other states have opened the door to long distance competition. EDAB has had a long-term relationship with SBC Pacific Bell; the company has a demonstrated record over many years of excellent support of the community both in their financial contributions and in the volunteerism and leadership of their employees. We look forward to the FCC's approval of SBC Pacific Bell's long distance application.